

Your children  
are growing **fast.**  
College tuition  
is growing **faster.**

Plan ahead and save for college  
with GET, Washington's Guaranteed  
Education Tuition Program.



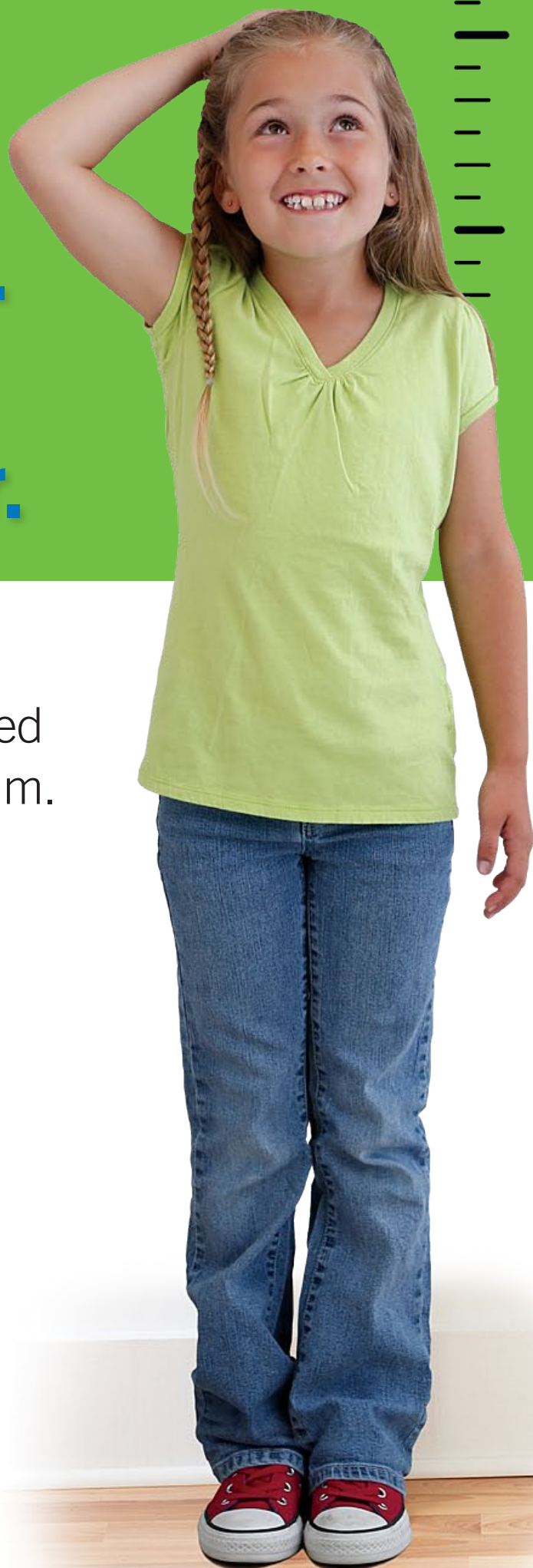
**ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD**

November 1 - May 31

Year-round enrollment for newborns



Washington State's  
529 Prepaid College  
Tuition Program



# Start now and save for college with GET



How does  
GET work?

## You purchase

GET units, and their value is  
guaranteed to keep pace with the  
rising cost of college tuition.



## You decide

how much and how often  
you want to save.

With few exceptions, the images in this guide are photos of current GET participants and their families.





GET has been one of the fastest growing 529 prepaid plans in the country for eight years in a row.

Source: College Savings Plan Network 2012

# GET helps families save

Over the past ten years, college tuition at Washington State's top public universities has climbed an average of 10% annually, four times our nation's inflation rate. Although the cost of college is increasing, you can save significantly on these future costs by planning ahead. Saving, even a little at a time, can make a big difference down the road. The important thing is to get started.

The Guaranteed Education Tuition Program is Washington's 529 prepaid college tuition plan. It was established in 1998 to help families save for their child's future higher education. Since that time, over 144,000 GET accounts have been opened and over 27,000 students have already used their accounts to attend colleges, universities and technical schools nationwide. Here's why:



## State guarantee

The State of Washington guarantees that the value of your account will increase right along with the rising cost of college tuition, no matter how much it increases in the future.<sup>1</sup> You don't have to worry about the ups and downs of the stock market. You are assured that the money you invest in GET will be there when your child is ready for college.

## Choice of colleges nationwide

You can use your GET account at nearly any public or private college, university or technical school in the country and even at some schools around the world. The value of your account is determined by the cost of resident, undergraduate tuition at Washington's most expensive public university (UW or WSU) but you can use your account to pay college expenses practically anywhere. Your GET units have the same monetary value whether your child attends University of Washington, a local community college, a private university, or a college in another state.

## Tax-free savings and withdrawals

Because GET is a state 529 plan, the after-tax money you put in will grow tax-free. And when your child is ready for college, the money you withdraw will be tax-free too, as long as you use it for qualified higher education expenses.<sup>2</sup>

## Flexibility and control

You can use your GET account not only for tuition, but also for room and board, books, or other qualified expenses. If your child chooses not to go to college or receives a scholarship, you can transfer your account to another family member, hold on to your account in case plans change, save it for graduate school, or even request a refund. And, unlike some other savings options, you maintain complete control over the account.

## Easy ways to save

You can set up a monthly payment plan, send a check whenever you have extra money to contribute, or choose a combination of the two. You can save whatever amount fits best in your family budget. You can open an account for anyone — your child, grandchild, friend or even yourself. The only requirement is that either the account owner or the student is a Washington resident at the time of enrollment in the program.

<sup>1</sup> The value of GET units is based on resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington, either the University of Washington or Washington State University.

<sup>2</sup> Review IRS Publication 970 and GET Program Details or [www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov) for a list of qualified higher education expenses.



100 GET units purchased today =  
1 year of tuition tomorrow GUARANTEED.

# Watch your savings grow... GUARANTEED

GET works on a unit system, with 100 GET units equal to one year of resident, undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive Washington public university, either the University of Washington or Washington State University. The current unit price is \$172. You can purchase anywhere from one to 500 units per child, and you can even purchase partial units.

For example, you might buy 100 units at the current unit price ( $100 \times \$172 = \$17,200$ ), or you might decide to open your account with a single \$12,000 deposit, which would purchase almost 70 units ( $\$12,000 \div \$172/\text{unit} = 69.76$  units). Or, you might decide to purchase 200 units over ten years with a Custom Monthly Plan payment of \$410/month.

You can purchase GET units all at once or over time with monthly payments, or do a little of both. You decide what's right for you and your family.

The State of Washington guarantees that if you buy 100 GET units today, you'll have one year of college tuition when your child is ready for college — even if tuition doubles or triples in that time.<sup>3</sup> That's what makes GET different from other savings plans. GET's tuition guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the State of Washington.<sup>4</sup> That means if future tuition increases ever require the program to pay out more money than it has available, the Legislature is required by state law to provide funding to cover the shortfall.

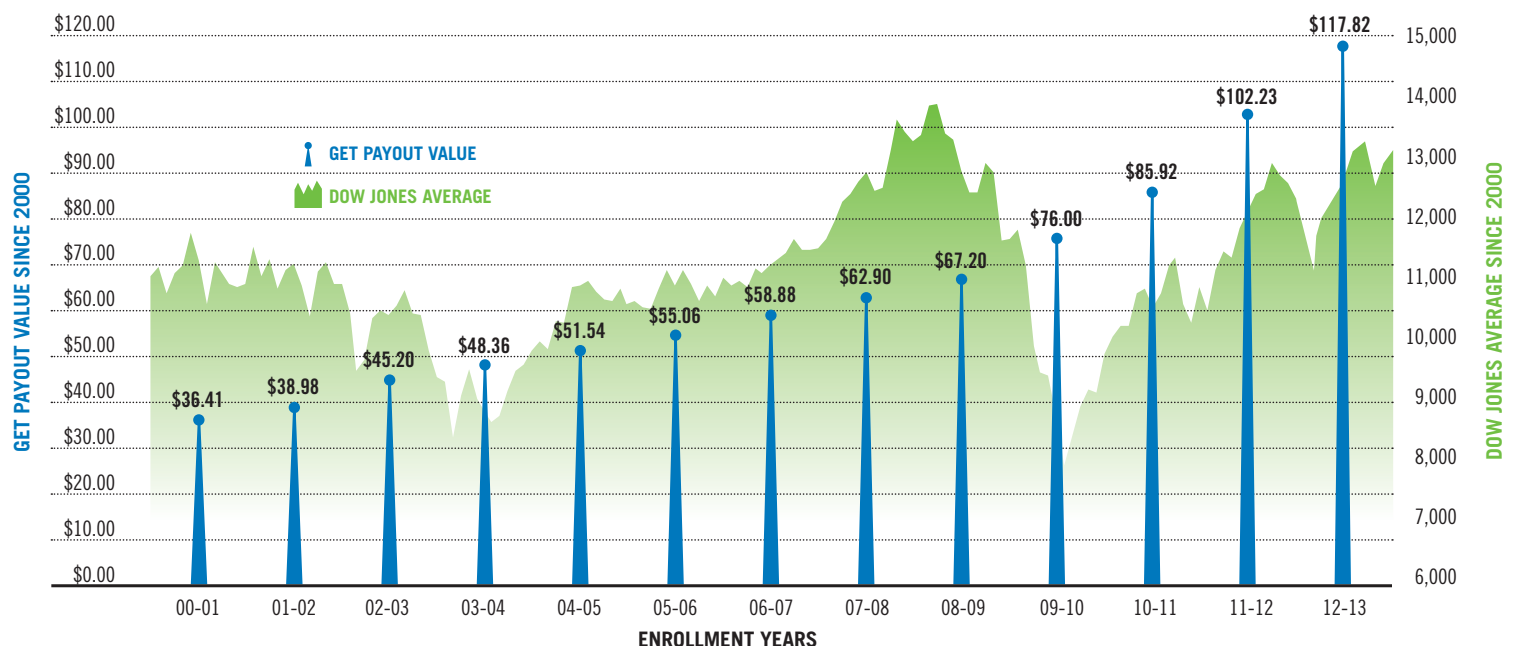
The GET Program is one of only five 529 plans in the country with this guarantee in state law.

<sup>3</sup> The value of GET units is based on resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington, either the University of Washington or Washington State University.

<sup>4</sup> Revised Code of Washington 28B.95.050

## YOUR GET ACCOUNT IS GUARANTEED TO INCREASE IN VALUE\*

*Since the Program began, GET units have steadily increased in value. With GET, your college savings are guaranteed to keep pace with rising tuition. Other savings plans are subject to the ups and downs of the market.*



\*To realize an increase in value, your GET account must be held for at least 4-5 years.





Earning a college degree gives you more choices and increases your earning potential.

## Save on future college costs

Education beyond high school is rapidly becoming a requirement for entering and advancing in the workplace. In fact, in 2010, the median family income for those with a bachelor's degree or more was \$99,716, more than double the \$48,332 median income for those with only a high school diploma.<sup>5</sup>

The cost of a college education continues to increase, and may at times seem out of reach for today's parents. With tuition inflation, parents of today's newborn can expect to pay over \$160,000<sup>6</sup> for four years of tuition at a top Washington public university. Room and board costs may nearly double that amount.

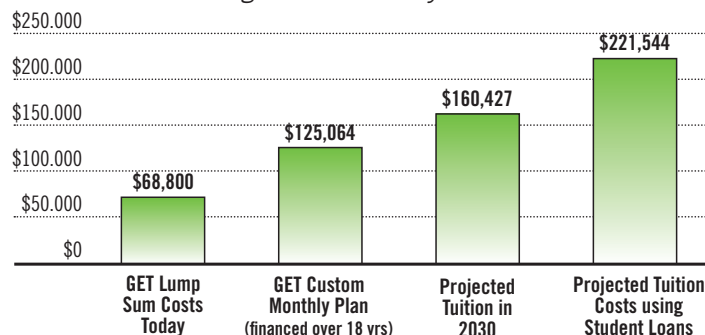
A GET account can help your child achieve higher education by making college more accessible, more affordable, and "part of the plan." Saving for college paves the way for your child's future and is less costly in the long run. Saving for college also reduces the need to take out expensive student loans.

<sup>5</sup> "Trends in College Pricing" (The College Board, 2011)

<sup>6</sup> Based on Washington State Actuary current projections.

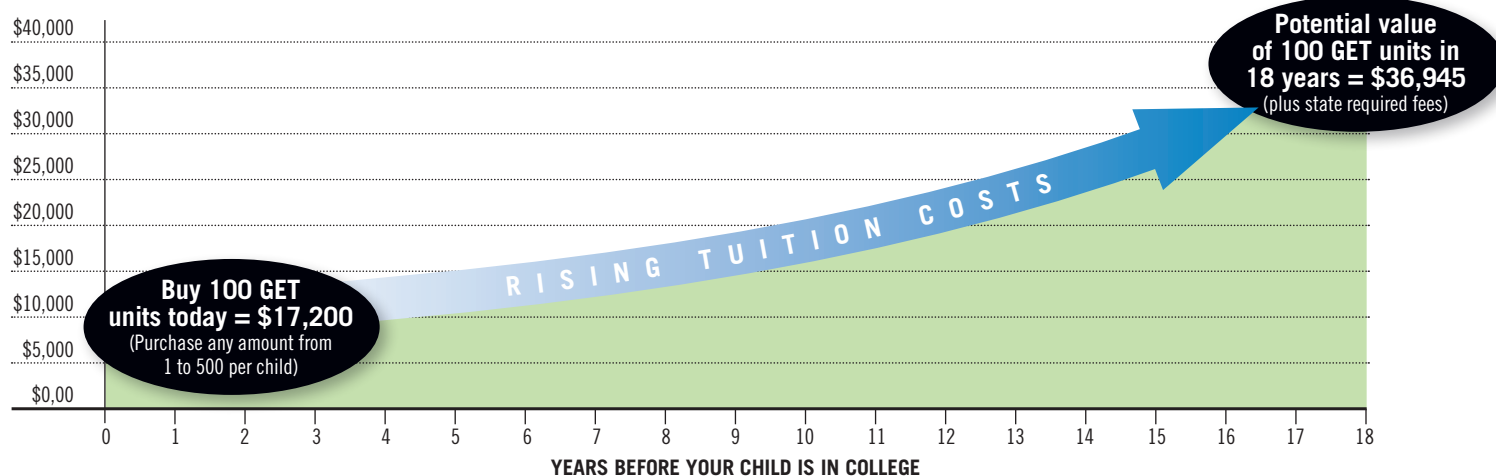
### FOUR YEARS OF COLLEGE TUITION

*Planning ahead for today's newborn.*



Above chart is for illustration purposes only and actual figures may vary. Costs are based on Washington's most expensive public university, assuming annual tuition inflation averaging 10% for four years, leveling out to a 5.5% average annual increase, current finance charge for GET Custom Monthly Plans of 7.5%; and student loans based on 6.8% interest rate for Direct Unsubsidized Loans over 10 years.

### YOUR GET UNITS ARE GUARANTEED TO KEEP PACE WITH RISING TUITION



\* For illustration purposes, chart assumes annual tuition inflation averaging 10% for four years, leveling out to a 5.5% average annual increase. Actual increases may be more or less. Units must be held for at least two years and for 4-5 years before you realize financial gain. GET unit values are based on resident undergraduate tuition and fees at UW or WSU.



Over 27,000 students have used GET to attend college in all 50 states and 5 foreign countries.

## Save what you can afford

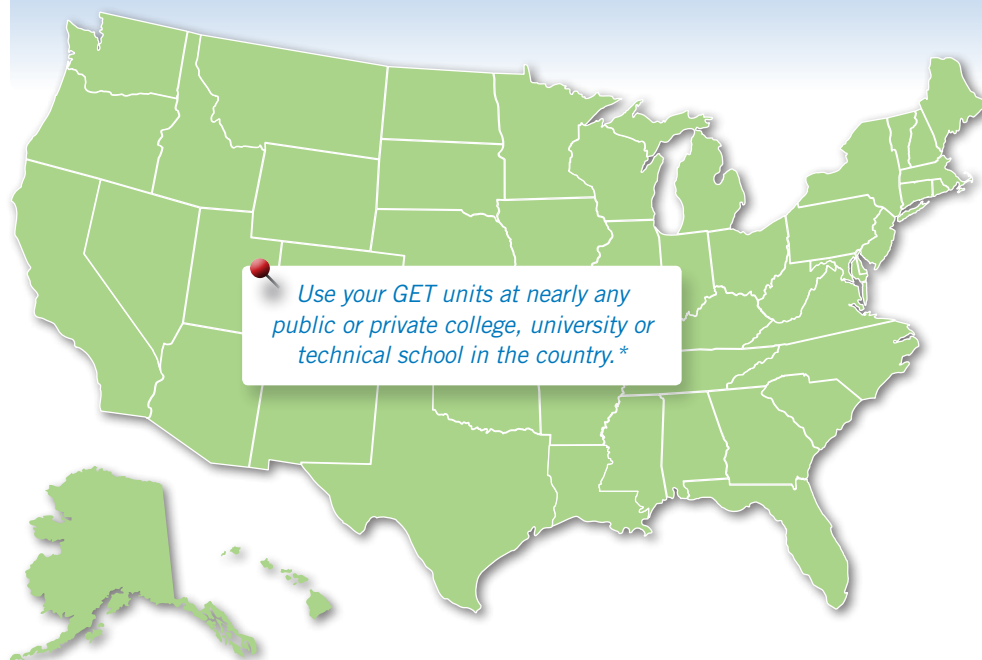
It all adds up, whether you can save for four years of tuition or two, or just save enough to help your child or grandchild with a part of tuition expenses to make their dreams come true. The average GET account contains less than 200 units. GET units can be saved and spent in whole or partial amounts, so simply funding your GET account with the amount that fits in your budget may be your best approach. The important part is that you're saving for college.

### HOW MUCH WILL MY SAVINGS HELP?

50 units	1 1/2 years of tuition and state-mandated fees at a community college
100 units	1/3 of 1 year's tuition at a private 4 year university
150 units	2 years of tuition, state-mandated fees and books at a regional university
200 units	2 years of tuition at community college + 2 years of tuition at a regional university
400 units	4 years of tuition and state-mandated fees at UW or WSU

Examples shown are general estimates, based on average college expenses in Washington State as of September 1, 2012. Units shown may not be the exact number required when your student attends college.

**Yes, you can use it anywhere.** Your child can use GET units at nearly any public or private college, university or technical school in the country. The unit value is the same, whether your child attends an in-state public college or an out-of-state private university. The value of GET units is based on resident, undergraduate tuition costs and state-mandated fees at Washington's highest priced public university, either UW or WSU, but you can use your GET account practically anywhere.



Regional and community colleges usually cost less, and you can use extra GET units for room and board, books, or other qualified higher education expenses. If your child attends a private or out-of-state university, tuition there will likely cost more and you'll pay the difference. In any case, GET is a solid foundation for your college savings because it's guaranteed. You may purchase from one to 500 units per student and use up to 125 units per year. Any unused units from one year are automatically rolled over for use in the following year.

\*Includes all colleges listed with FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov))







Families who save for college are planning ahead and avoiding debt in the future.

# Tax-free growth and withdrawals

Because GET is a state 529 plan, the tax advantages are many. You contribute after-tax dollars, but your GET account will grow tax-free. And, when your child graduates from high school and you're ready to pay college expenses, withdrawals from your GET account remain tax-free.

## Saving is better than borrowing

A recent survey of GET customers revealed that avoiding debt in the future is one of the main reasons families save for college with GET. The average college graduate today faces over \$23,000 in student loan debt, a significant burden for young adults at the start of their careers.<sup>7</sup> Families know that college is expensive, but it's easy for time to pass quickly without getting a college savings program started.

A GET account can help you save for college expenses, and it can also help you save on the future cost of those expenses, especially when you start early. Regular contributions can add up over time.

## It's a smart investment

When you enroll in GET, you'll be looking ahead to what your GET account will pay for in the future. Buying GET units is a way to purchase future tuition at a discount, when you hold your units for several years.

Families that bought 100 Lump Sum GET units just ten years ago have seen the value of their savings more than double in value, in spite of the economic recession. The actual increase in value of your GET account will vary depending on when you buy your units, when your child goes to college and how much tuition rates change over time.

When applying for financial aid, a GET account is considered an asset of the parent, not the student. If the parent or dependent student is listed as the account owner, a GET account receives more favorable treatment in qualifying for need-based financial assistance.



<sup>7</sup> Federal Reserve Bank of New York/Equifax, 2012

## How GET differs from other state 529 plans

State prepaid tuition plans, like GET, and state college savings plans are known as 529 plans after the IRS federal tax code that authorizes them. Under both plans, the after-tax money you put in will grow tax-free and all withdrawals will be exempt from federal income taxes as long as you use them for qualified higher education expenses.

However, with a 529 college savings plan, you take on all of the investment risk and worries associated with volatile financial markets. With GET, the State of Washington assumes the investment risk so you don't have to worry.

	529 Prepaid Tuition Plan (GET)	529 College Savings Plan
Tax-deferred growth	✓	✓
Tax-free withdrawals	✓	✓
Favorable financial aid treatment	✓	✓
Investment choice and risk	State chooses investments, shoulders investment risk	You choose investments, shoulder investment risk
Future value of your account	Guaranteed by the state to keep pace with rising college tuition	Based on the performance of your chosen investments



The gift of a college education can open  
the door to a world of opportunity.

# Compare different savings plans

	<b>GET 529 Prepaid Tuition Plan<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>529 College Savings Plan<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Coverdell Education Savings Account<sup>9</sup> (Education IRA)</b>	<b>Custodial Account<sup>10</sup> (UGMA/UTMA)</b>
<b>Does this account grow tax-free?</b>	Yes, withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses. <sup>11</sup>	Yes, withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses. <sup>11</sup>	Yes, withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses <sup>11</sup> or elementary/secondary education. <sup>9</sup>	No, regular tax rules apply.
<b>Who can participate?</b>	Either the student or account owner must be a resident of Washington at the time of enrollment. The account owner may be an individual, trust, corporation, partnership or other entity. The account owner does not have to be related to the student.	Rules vary by plan.	Your modified AGI <sup>12</sup> must be less than \$110,000 if you file an individual tax return (\$220,000 for a joint tax return).	Everyone.
<b>How much can I contribute?</b>	Total units cannot exceed 500 per student.	Varies by state plan. The highest limit is about \$400,000 per student.	\$2,000 annually.	Unlimited.
<b>What can withdrawals be used for?</b>	To pay qualified higher education expenses. <sup>11</sup> The student must be enrolled at least half-time to pay room and board.	To pay qualified higher education expenses. <sup>11</sup> The student must be enrolled at least half-time to pay room and board.	To pay expenses associated with higher education as well as primary and secondary education. The student must be enrolled at least half-time to pay room and board.	Rules vary by state, but withdrawals can be made for any reason.
<b>Can I change student beneficiaries?</b>	Yes, within the immediate family, including cousins.	Yes, within the immediate family, including cousins.	Yes, if the new student is under the age of 30 and the original student gives consent.	No.
<b>Who are the best candidates for this type of account?</b>	Those who prefer a guaranteed return based on the rate of tuition inflation.	Those who want to contribute to a tax-free college fund and have some control over their investments.	Parents who want maximum control over their investment options and don't have more than \$2,000 to contribute annually.	Those who want to transfer assets to a young student and are comfortable turning over control once the student is of age.
<b>Who controls the account?</b>	The account owner retains control.	The account owner retains control.	Either the account owner or the student may have control depending on how the account is set up.	Until the student is of age, a custodian controls the account. Once the student is of age, he/she gains control of the account.
<b>Is there a guarantee? How safe is my investment?</b>	Yes. Your account is guaranteed by the State of Washington to keep pace with resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington.	No. The value of the account is based on the portfolio value at the time of withdrawal or disbursement.	No. Depending on the type of account (savings/brokerage), the value of the account is based on interest earned or the portfolio value at the time of withdrawal or disbursement.	No. Depending on the type of account (savings/brokerage), the value of the account is based on interest earned or the portfolio value at the time of withdrawal or disbursement.

<sup>8</sup> A qualified tuition program (QTP) under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. Plans vary by state.

<sup>9</sup> A non-deductible plan that, with certain income and contribution limits, allows you to invest for college-related expenses. May be used for primary or secondary education; unless extended by Congress, this will expire 12/31/12. Please note that new rules may apply in 2013. Consult your tax advisor.

<sup>10</sup> A brokerage account with custodial account registration that invests in mutual funds and individual securities, including stocks and bonds, on behalf of a minor.

<sup>11</sup> Qualified higher education expenses include tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment required for enrollment or attendance, and, in most cases, room and board.

<sup>12</sup> AGI: Adjusted Gross Income from your federal tax return.







By 2018, 62% of all new jobs will require a college education, more than half requiring at least a bachelor's degree.

Source: Georgetown Center on Education and the Work Force 2009

# Get ready to enroll in GET

November 1 – May 31

## Easy

Nearly 92% of GET accounts are opened online, and enrolling online takes an average of fifteen minutes. Just click “Enroll Now” on our Web site. You can set up a Lump Sum or Custom Monthly Plan, use a credit or debit card for the \$50 enrollment fee, then send us a check, money order or set up an electronic funds transfer to get your account started. It's that easy. You can view your account status and change some account information online whenever it's convenient for you. You can also email us at [GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov) or call Customer Service (1.800.955.2318) during business hours for personal assistance.

## Affordable

With GET, you can set your college savings goals realistically. Custom monthly plans start at \$74 per month, and automatic monthly withdrawals from your bank account can be set up for any amount. Perhaps you have money set aside to get your college savings started, and then plan to contribute more over the coming years. Tax refunds, birthdays and holidays can all be opportunities to add to your account. **Few families are able to save enough for all four years of tuition, room and board, but many can save enough to give their child the right start. Remember that no matter how much you save, even a little can make a difference.**

## Flexible

You can decide when and how much to contribute: periodically, monthly or all at once. You can use your GET account at any eligible college in the country and use it to pay for tuition, room and board, books or any other qualified higher education expense.<sup>13</sup> If your child gets a scholarship or decides not to go to college, or if your financial circumstances change, you have several options. Grandparents, family and friends can all contribute to your GET account, to help you send your child to college.

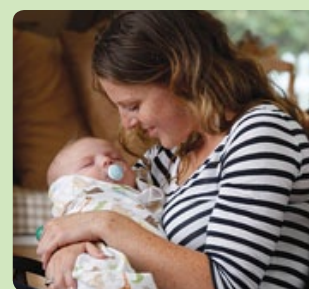
## No-risk guarantee

Washington's Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Program is just that ... **guaranteed**. You don't have to worry about the ups and downs of the stock market, or wonder if you've saved enough. The state guarantee is what sets GET apart from other college savings plans. Families that bought 100 Lump Sum units ten years ago paid \$5,200. These units are worth \$11,782 today – more than double their original cost – and they've continually increased in value throughout the economic recession.

<sup>13</sup> The value of GET units is based on resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington, either the University of Washington or Washington State University.

**Newborns** Newborns up to their 1st birthday can be enrolled year-round. If it's outside a regular enrollment period, you will need to submit a paper enrollment form and include a copy of the baby's official birth certificate. Contributions to a baby's GET account make lasting gifts that are sure to be appreciated for a lifetime.

**Grandparents** The gift of a college education will open doors to a world of opportunity for your grandchild. Approximately 14% of GET accounts are opened by grandparents or other non-parent relatives. Gifts can be made up to \$13,000 per child per year (or \$26,000 if gifted with a spouse) without incurring the federal gift tax. You can also fund a GET account with as much as \$65,000 (\$130,000 if gifting as a couple) at one time if you average the gift over five years. If one child decides not to go to college, you can switch the account to a relative of the child. And even if you're the account owner, your contributions are excluded from your taxable estate. There are many advantages, and grandparents know that opening a GET account is a meaningful way to help both their children and their grandchildren achieve their dreams.





No matter how much you save,  
even a little can make a difference.

# Let's get started

## Step #1. Determine your child's benefit year

First, see the chart below to project your child's benefit use year. The projected benefit use year is the year your child is expected to graduate from high school and enter college.

STUDENT BENEFICIARY'S PROJECTED BENEFIT USE YEAR			
Student Beneficiary Age/Grade as of August 31, 2012	Projected Benefit Use Year	Student Beneficiary Age/Grade as of August 31, 2012	Projected Benefit Use Year
Born after August 31, 2012 .....	Fall 2031	4th Grade .....	Fall 2021
Newborn, less than Age 1 .....	Fall 2030	5th Grade .....	Fall 2020
Age 1 .....	Fall 2029	6th Grade .....	Fall 2019
Age 2 .....	Fall 2028	7th Grade .....	Fall 2018
Age 3 .....	Fall 2027	8th Grade .....	Fall 2017
Age 4/5 (not in kindergarten) .....	Fall 2026	9th Grade .....	Fall 2016
Kindergarten .....	Fall 2025	10th Grade .....	Fall 2015
1st Grade .....	Fall 2024	11th Grade* .....	Fall 2015
2nd Grade .....	Fall 2023	12th Grade and Adults* .....	Fall 2015
3rd Grade .....	Fall 2022		

\*Washington state law requires a minimum two-year waiting period before units may be used. However, you should plan to hold your units for four to five years before use in order to realize financial gain.

## Step #2. Choose your plan (See below and facing page for options)

**Custom Monthly Plan** Like any other major investment, the key to saving for college is to start early and save regularly.

By saving a set amount monthly, your money can grow as your child does. GET's defined monthly payment plan features a monthly payment that remains the same throughout the term of your contract.

Your contract locks in the current \$172 unit price. The monthly payment includes a premium as well as a 7.5 percent finance charge, so it's best to choose the shortest payment term you can comfortably afford. That way you can save on finance charges. To use your units, your contract must be paid in full and your account must be open for at least two calendar years. **You should plan to hold GET units from four to five years before your account shows financial gain; longer if you are saving with a Custom Monthly Plan.**

Select a contract between 50 and 500 units for each child.

		2012-2013 CUSTOM MONTHLY PLAN UNITS									
Projected Benefit Use Year	Payment Term (in years)	50 Units	100 Units	150 Units	200 Units	250 Units	300 Units	350 Units	400 Units	450 Units	500 Units
Fall 2015	1	\$754	\$1,506	\$2,258	\$3,010	\$3,761	\$4,513	\$5,265	\$6,017	\$6,769	\$7,521
Fall 2015	2	\$391	\$781	\$1,171	\$1,560	\$1,950	\$2,339	\$2,729	\$3,118	\$3,508	\$3,897
Fall 2016	3	\$271	\$540	\$809	\$1,078	\$1,347	\$1,616	\$1,885	\$2,154	\$2,423	\$2,692
Fall 2017	4	\$211	\$420	\$628	\$837	\$1,046	\$1,255	\$1,464	\$1,673	\$1,881	\$2,090
Fall 2018	5	\$175	\$348	\$521	\$694	\$866	\$1,039	\$1,212	\$1,385	\$1,558	\$1,731
Fall 2019	6	\$151	\$300	\$449	\$598	\$747	\$896	\$1,045	\$1,194	\$1,343	\$1,492
Fall 2020	7	\$134	\$266	\$398	\$530	\$662	\$794	\$926	\$1,058	\$1,190	\$1,323
Fall 2021	8	\$121	\$241	\$360	\$480	\$599	\$718	\$838	\$957	\$1,077	\$1,196
Fall 2022	9	\$112	\$221	\$331	\$441	\$550	\$660	\$770	\$879	\$989	\$1,099
Fall 2023	10	\$104	\$206	\$308	\$410	\$512	\$613	\$715	\$817	\$919	\$1,021
Fall 2024	11	\$98	\$193	\$289	\$384	\$480	\$576	\$671	\$767	\$863	\$958
Fall 2025	12	\$92	\$183	\$273	\$364	\$454	\$545	\$635	\$725	\$816	\$906
Fall 2026	13	\$88	\$174	\$260	\$346	\$432	\$518	\$605	\$691	\$777	\$863
Fall 2027	14	\$84	\$167	\$249	\$332	\$414	\$496	\$579	\$661	\$744	\$826
Fall 2028	15	\$81	\$160	\$240	\$319	\$398	\$477	\$557	\$636	\$715	\$794
Fall 2029	16	\$79	\$155	\$232	\$308	\$385	\$461	\$538	\$614	\$691	\$767
Fall 2030	17	\$76	\$150	\$224	\$299	\$373	\$447	\$521	\$595	\$669	\$743
Fall 2031	18	\$74	\$146	\$218	\$290	\$362	\$434	\$506	\$579	\$651	\$723





Teens who plan to attend college are 7 times more likely to do so if they have a savings account in their name.

Source: Center for Social Development, Washington University at St. Louis (Elliott & Beverly -2010)

### Lump Sum Plan

GET's "pay as you go" plan lets you purchase any number of units (from one to 500) whenever you choose. You can even buy partial units at any time, though you must purchase at least 1 unit when you first open your account. Whenever you buy units in "Lump Sum," you pay the unit price (currently \$172) that is in effect at the time we receive your payment. The unit price is set annually, and may also be adjusted once annually, to ensure the actuarial soundness of the Program. Units must be held in a Lump Sum account for at least two calendar years before you can use them.

**The unit price includes a premium<sup>14</sup>** so you should plan to hold the units four to five years before your account shows financial gain; longer if you are using a Custom Monthly Plan.

### Choose the number of units you want to purchase.

Lump Sum Plan 2012-2013 enrollment year

You can buy between 1 and 500 units per child at the current \$172 unit price.

#### Example 1:

If you buy 150 units at \$172 per unit, you will pay \$25,800. (150 units x \$172 per unit = \$25,800)

#### Example 2:

If you have \$6000, you can buy 34.88 units at the \$172 unit price. ( $\$6000 \div \$172 \text{ per unit} = 34.88 \text{ units}$ )

### You can always choose to save both ways

If you open a Custom Monthly Plan account, you can add Lump Sum units at any time. If you open a Lump Sum account, you can always add a Custom Monthly Plan later during any open enrollment period. GET's Web site (home page) features a link to a Tuition Planning Calculator, to help you decide which plan, or combination of plans, best fits your budget. A student can have multiple accounts, with a maximum of 500 units total. Grandparents, friends and other relatives can help you save this way too. Just mail us a check, include your account number, and tell us whether you want to apply the money to Custom Monthly payments or a Lump Sum purchase.

<sup>14</sup> GET is a self-sustaining program which helps families buy future tuition. The unit price, which includes a premium above current tuition, takes into account estimated future tuition, projected inflation and investment returns, and administrative costs. It also includes a stabilization reserve to adjust for periods of lower-than-expected returns or higher-than-expected tuition, and amortization of past losses. The premium assures stability for the GET program. The account owner is compensated by the increasing value of GET units when held for more than four to five years.

## Step #3. Decide on a payment method

**Payment coupons.** When you enroll, we'll send you a book of payment coupons, unless you set up automatic withdrawal or payroll deduction. For a Custom Monthly Plan account, you can expect the coupons 2-3 weeks before your first payment is due. Just send us a coupon with your check or money order by the 15th day of every month for the Custom Monthly Plan or use these coupons whenever you have extra money to contribute to the Lump Sum Plan.

**Automatic monthly withdrawal.** You can have money automatically withdrawn each month from your bank or credit union account and deposited directly into your GET account. You can choose to pay your Custom Monthly Plan amount, or make a payment of any amount to regularly purchase Lump Sum units.

Just sign up online or complete an automatic withdrawal authorization form available on our Web site. Payments will be taken out of your bank or credit union account on the 15th day of each month.

**Payroll deduction.** You can have money deducted from your paycheck and deposited directly into your GET account.

If your employer already participates in GET payroll deduction, simply complete the payroll deduction authorization form available on our Web site and submit it to your employer's payroll or human resources department.

If your employer does not yet participate, suggest it to your payroll or human resources department. Let us know too and we'll be happy to forward to your employer all the necessary information.

**Online payments.** You can transfer money at any time from your bank directly to your GET account through our electronic bank transfer system through US Bank. They charge a \$1 convenience fee for each transaction, and you may make payments on up to four accounts per transaction. You can also set up payments to GET through your own bank. Visit our Web site or call us to learn more.

**Credit cards and debit cards:** You may use a credit card or debit card to pay the one-time enrollment fee only. You cannot buy units or make a payment with a credit card or debit card.

### Questions? Call us. We're here to help.

GET Customer Service:

1.800.955.2318 or [GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov)  
or, visit our Web site at [www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov)





GET is different from other 529 savings plans because it's GUARANTEED.

# The 10 Most Frequently Asked Questions About GET

## 1. Can GET be used at private colleges or out-of-state universities?

You can use your GET units at nearly any public or private college, university or technical school in the United States and at selected colleges in other countries. A college is eligible if it participates in federal financial aid programs through the U.S. Department of Education. To view the hundreds of participating schools, visit [www.fafsa.edu](http://www.fafsa.edu).

Your GET units may not be enough to cover the full cost of tuition and fees at private or out-of-state colleges. If your school costs more than University of Washington or Washington State University, you pay the difference. If it costs less, you can also use GET units to pay other higher education costs such as room and board, books, etc.

## 2. What if my child gets a scholarship?

You have several options. If your child's scholarship covers tuition and fees, you can use your GET units to pay for room and board, books, or other qualified higher education expenses. You can transfer the account, in whole or in part, to another family member. You can request a refund (see our Refund and Cancellation policy for details). You can also wait up to ten years to see if your child may want to apply GET account funds toward graduate school.

## 3. How will it affect our financial aid?

If the parent or dependent student is the Account Owner, GET is considered an asset of the parent and treated more favorably than assets of a non-dependent student when determining eligibility for financial aid. Distributions from GET accounts owned by non-parents may be treated as student income the following year and have greater impact. You may want to consult your financial advisor or the financial aid office at your school.

## 4. What if my child chooses not to go to college?

You have several options. Your student has up to ten years after his selected benefit use year to begin using his GET account. Many students who aren't ready for college upon graduation change their minds. You can transfer funds in the account to another family member with an existing account, or change the student beneficiary on the entire account to another family member. You can request a refund as well, though you will need to pay taxes on any increase in value as well as a refund penalty. Please review our Refund and Cancellation policy for details.

## 5. How do I know it's safe?

GET is one of only five state prepaid college tuition plans in the country with a guarantee in state law (RCW 28B.95.050). The state guarantees that if future tuition increases ever require the program to pay out more money than it has available, the Legislature would be required by state law to provide funding to cover the shortfall. GET is a self-sustaining program and does not rely on general state budget funds. The unit price is carefully evaluated twice yearly to ensure that future college funds will always be there for families who have enrolled their children in GET.



## 6. What if I can't make my monthly payments? Can I get a refund?

If you can no longer make payments on your Custom Monthly contract, you have the option to 1) convert to a Lump Sum plan and end your monthly payments, 2) reduce the total number of units in your contract to lower your payment, 3) increase the number of years in your contract to lower your payment, or 4) close the account and request a refund. Please review our Refund and Cancellation policy or call us for details.





The sooner you start saving,  
the more time your money will have to grow.

Visit our Web site  
for more FAQs.

## 7. Are units the same as credits?

GET units are not the same as credit hours at a college, university or technical school. Credit hours have an academic value. Credits vary between schools and represent academic year or degree requirements (i.e. English 101 might be worth 4 credits). GET units have a dollar value. You purchase GET units at today's price, and whenever your child attends college, the dollar value of your units will be based on tuition costs at that time, no matter how much they have increased. One unit = 1/100th of the actual resident, undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at Washington's most expensive public university. You can use that money towards any qualified higher education costs (usually tuition, room and board, books) at any qualified college, university or technical school in the country.

## 8. How many units should I buy?

You decide how many units to buy, from a minimum of one unit to a maximum of 500 units per child. You can even buy partial units in any amount. You can use up to 125 units each academic year. Any unused units from one year will automatically roll over to the next year.

The fact is that most college costs are covered by a combination of savings, part-time work, scholarships and grants. It's important to realize that whether you can afford 100 or 500 units, you are helping to make college dreams a reality for your child.

One hundred units will cover resident, undergraduate tuition and state-required fees for a year at University of Washington or Washington State University. Fewer units may cover two years at a local community college. There are also other expenses to plan for, such as books, room and board. GET makes a solid foundation for your college savings plan, because it's guaranteed.

## 9. How is the unit price set? Why is it higher than the payout value?

The GET Committee sets the unit purchase price based on an actuarial formula that takes into account estimated future tuition, projected inflation and

investment returns, and administrative costs. It also includes a stabilization reserve to adjust for periods of lower-than-expected returns or higher-than-expected tuition, and amortization of past losses. The GET Committee sets the unit price annually, and may adjust it once annually, if needed, to ensure financial stability for the Program.

The payout value of a GET unit is established at the beginning of each academic year when the state public universities set their tuition rates. Each year, the payout value of a GET unit represents 1/100th of the actual resident, undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at Washington's most expensive public university.

Today's unit purchase price is higher than the current payout value because the state guarantees your GET account will keep pace with tuition in the future, even if it doubles or triples in price. This premium over current tuition ensures stability for the Program.

It will take about four or five years to realize a gain on your investment (more if using a Custom Monthly Plan), but GET's increase in value is steady and guaranteed over the years. GET is a self-sustaining program and receives no ongoing state appropriations.



## 10. How do I use my GET units?

When your student is ready for college, we'll send you information on how to use your units. You will complete a Direct Payment Request, if you want GET to send money directly to the school, or a Reimbursement Request if you have paid college expenses from your own funds. Units must be held at least two years before use, and Custom Monthly Plans must be paid in full. As the account owner, you maintain control of your account and are the only one who can request account changes, distributions or a refund.



It's never too early to plan ahead.  
College is an investment for a lifetime.

# Enroll Now

## Enroll online

It's easy and fast to enroll online. It only takes about 15 minutes and you'll have your account number right away. Visit our Web site at [www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov) and click on "Enroll Now." If you prefer to enroll by mail, please complete an enrollment form and mail it to us. You may download an enrollment form from our Web site, or it may be included in the back of this enrollment kit.

### You will need the following information

- About you (Account Owner)  
*Social Security number and contact information, including email address*
- About your student (Beneficiary)  
*Social Security number, contact information, date of birth and projected benefit use year*
- About your plan selection  
*Lump Sum Plan or Custom Monthly Plan*

Please thoroughly review the GET Program Details before you enroll. We charge a \$50 non-refundable enrollment fee for each GET account, with a maximum \$100 fee per family. You may qualify for the \$100 maximum family fee if the same account owner opens accounts for more than two students living at the same address. You can pay the enrollment fee by credit card, debit card or check.



After you enroll, you will receive a welcome email confirming your enrollment within two weeks. Unless you have selected Automatic Payroll Deduction or Automatic Monthly Withdrawal, your coupon book will follow either within a few weeks (Lump Sum Plan) or 2-3 weeks before your first payment due date (Custom Monthly Plan). Your account can usually be viewed online within ten working days.

## Important dates

Open an account by May 31, 2013

### Opening an account

- November 1, 2012** The 2012-2013 enrollment year begins. You can open an account at the \$172 unit price.
- May 31, 2013** The 2012-2013 enrollment year ends. If you enroll online, you must complete your enrollment by midnight PDT on May 31. If you enroll by mail, your enrollment form must be **postmarked** by May 31.
- Online enrollment gets congested during the final week of the enrollment period.  
To avoid frustration, please enroll early.*

### Buying units for your account (If your account was opened on or before May 31, 2013)

- July 1, 2013** July 1 is the last day to buy Lump Sum units at the \$172 unit price. We must **receive** your payment by July 1. (**We do not accept July 1 postmarks.**) If we receive your payment after July 1, we will post it at the unit price in effect on July 2, 2013.
- July 2, 2013** The GET Program may increase the unit price for Lump Sum purchases. Call Customer Service for details, or check our Web site.

### Enrollment dates and unit price for 2013-2014

Annually, the Program will announce an enrollment period. The price of units shall be set annually and may also be adjusted once during the year, if necessary, to ensure the actuarial soundness of the Program. The dates of the 2013-2014 enrollment period and the corresponding unit price will be available by Fall 2013. Please check our Web site or call Customer Service for details.







## Guarantee your child's future

### Contact us

**Email:** [GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov)

**Telephone:** 1.800.955.2318 (toll-free) or  
360.753.7803 (Olympia)

*Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pacific Time (excluding state holidays)*

*Changes will be posted on our Web site.*

*Translation service is available for customers who do not speak English.*

**Web site:** [www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov)

### Mailing addresses:

#### For enrollment forms and payments

GET Program, PO Box 84824, Seattle, WA 98124-6124

#### For correspondence

GET Program, PO Box 43450, Olympia, WA 98504-3450

#### Office location *(in-person visits only)*

919 Lakeridge Way SW, Olympia, WA 98502

*Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding state holidays)*

Directions are posted on our Web site.

# Save for college with GET

[www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov)

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**Washington Student  
Achievement Council**



Washington State's  
529 Prepaid College  
Tuition Program

The Washington Student Achievement Council administers the GET Program while the Washington State Investment Board oversees its investments. The Committee on Advanced Tuition Payment, commonly referred to as the GET Committee, governs the program.

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